

Appl. No. : 10/522,624  
Amdt. Dated: August 13, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of June 20, 2007

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AMENDMENTS

To the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended): A fitting for connection to an end of a tubular member, the fitting comprising a collar which is received over an outer surface of an end of the tubular member, and a separate externally threaded sleeve which has an outside diameter which is larger than an internal diameter of the tubular member, and which is screwed into the tubular member to expand the tubular member and trap it between the collar and the sleeve, an outside surface of the sleeve and an internal bore of the collar being cylindrical, and the internal bore of the collar being continuously smooth and cylindrical along an entire hose contacting length.
2. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the sleeve forms a thread in an internal wall of the tubular member as it is screwed in.
3. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the leading edge of the sleeve is chamfered.
4. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the thickness of a side wall of the sleeve decreases towards its distal end.
5. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the sleeve has an internal bore which is greater than or equal to an internal bore of the tubular member prior to insertion of the sleeve.

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6. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the tubular member is a hose.
7. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 6, in which the tubular member is a high pressure hydraulic hose.
8. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the sleeve is connected to a hydraulic connector at its end remote from a threaded end of the sleeve.
9. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the tubular member is formed from a polymer.
10. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 9, in which the tubular member is formed from Teflon.
11. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the tubular member comprises a resilient inner hose within a braided metal outer sheath.
12. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the thread on the threaded sleeve is 36 UNF or 28 UN on G-Line style pitch.
13. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the sleeve is provided with a secondary thread which engages in a corresponding thread formed on the collar.
14. (Previously Presented): A fitting as claimed in claim 1, in which the secondary thread is of larger diameter than the primary thread.

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15. (Previously Presented): A method of connecting a fitting to an end of a tubular member, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) fitting a collar with a cylindrical internal bore over a free end of the tubular member, the internal bore of the collar being continuously smooth and cylindrical along an entire hose contacting length;

(b) screwing a threaded sleeve of the fitting, which sleeve has a cylindrical outer surface with a diameter larger than an internal diameter of the tubular member, into the tubular member, thereby expanding the tubular member and trapping it between the collar and the sleeve.